



NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Parks and Forestry  
Office of the Director  
501 East State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Richard J. Codey, Acting Governor  
Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner

# LUSSCROFT WANTAGE, NEW JERSEY *a unique place*

## First Alternative Preferred:

Discussions over the future of Lusscroft were met with great interest, with nearly 400 attendees at the first public meeting last July. The overall sentiment expressed by those who attended urged the preservation of Lusscroft for its significant role in New Jersey's agricultural history. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received 63 written comments on the draft Lusscroft General Management Plan, including 22 responses (35%) favoring the First Alternative (agricultural heritage center), 20 responses (32%) favoring the Second Alternative (new state park and agricultural heritage center), 19 responses (30%) favoring the First or Second Alternatives, and 2 responses (3%) favoring the Third Alternative (take no action). Twenty-nine (46%) respondents favored either the First or Second Alternative with the addition of horseback riding trails or horse boarding stalls on site. One of two individuals favoring the Third Alternative did so because he thought that the preservation of Lusscroft as a rural heritage center would bring too many people to an already congested area.



In simplest terms, 97 percent of the respondents favored preserving Lusscroft as an agricultural heritage center with a strong educational component. Public comment indicated that provisions for horseback riding trails and stabling for horses was the most desired addition to the suggested outcomes. Others spoke eloquently in support of using Lusscroft to demonstrate

community-based agriculture, wind power and environmentally sound waste management. Based on comments made at the public meeting, the strong showing for the Second Alternative in the written comments probably does not indicate support for the creation of an entirely "new state park" between Stokes State Forest and High Point State Forest, but rather a desire to have the DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry take a leading role in the outcome depicted in the First Alternative instead of ceding the management of Lusscroft entirely to a non-profit management entity.

### Public Meeting: Please Join Us!

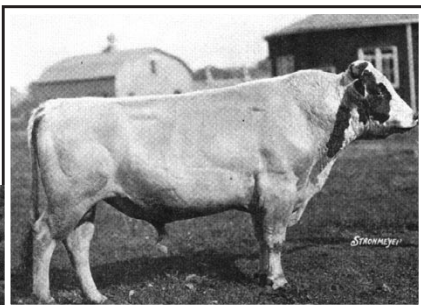
We invite you to participate in the future development of Lusscroft (former 4-H camp)

**March 3, 2005 at 7p.m.**  
Beemerville Fire Department  
227 Route 519  
Wantage, NJ

## What were the Alternatives?

The **First Alternative** envisioned the development of an agricultural heritage center loosely based on the model of Shelburne Farms in Vermont. It incorporates a variety of activities and attractions to sustain a popular destination for agricultural, historical and ecological tourism. A non-profit Agricultural Heritage Association would be established to coordinate and help fund development and management. The focus would be on rural arts and heritage, agricultural history, building protection and appreciation for

grassland-nesting bird habitat, heirloom breeds and plant species, and forest resources, while providing compatible passive recreational opportunities.



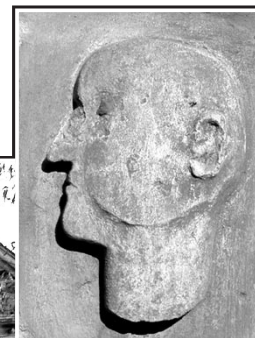
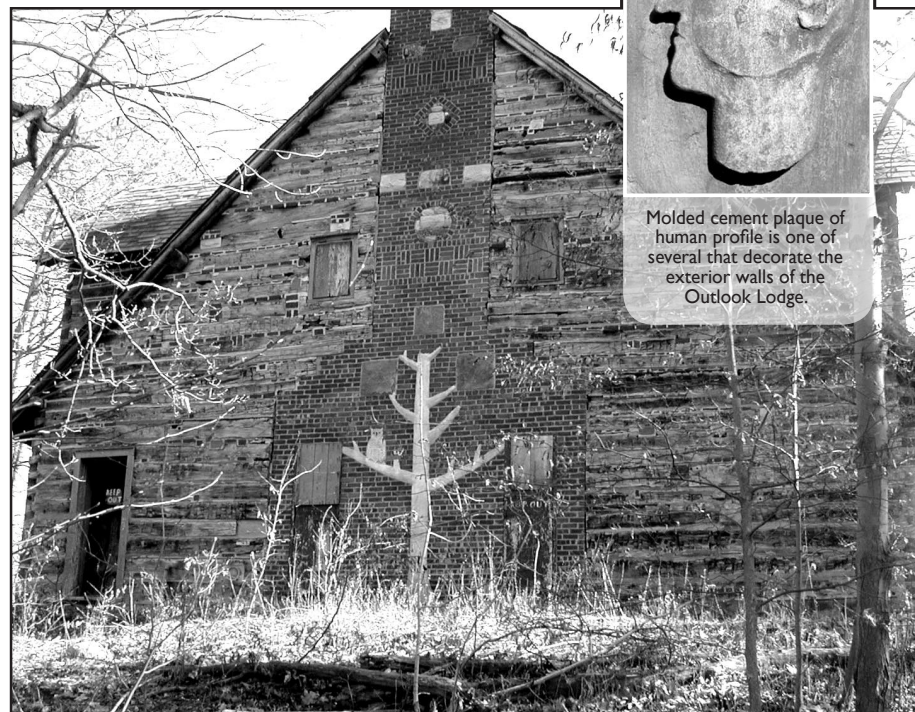
The **Second Alternative** envisioned Lusscroft becoming the headquarters of a new state park whose jurisdiction would include miles of existing or proposed rail trails; approximately 20 geologic, prehistoric, historic and Natural Heritage Priority Sites presently state-owned or otherwise recommended for acquisition; the Appalachian Trail Corridor; and Pimple Hills State Forest. While administrative offices and maintenance facilities would be incorporated into the planning, this would not preclude the development of an agricultural heritage center encompassing many of the major components envisioned in the first alternative.

The **Third Alternative** offered the course of “no action.” The “no action” alternative would result in a steady erosion and loss of historic resources, the agricultural landscape and grassland habitat.

## What Can I Do To Help?

If you drive to Lusscroft, you will notice how the combined efforts of the Parks and Forestry staff and enthusiastic volunteers are already making a difference. We welcome your participation. It will take many hands and much heart to reach our desired objective, but preserving the agricultural heritage is a worthy undertaking of lasting value. Our success depends upon our sustained collective determination.

If you are interested in lending support, contact Wes Powers, Construction Management Specialist in the State Park Service's Northern Region Office. Wes is coordinating all volunteer participation and activities at Lusscroft, whether by individuals or by group. You can reach him at the Northern Region Office, State Park Service, 20 Route 23, Franklin, NJ 07416 or by calling: (973)-827-6200.



Molded cement plaque of human profile is one of several that decorate the exterior walls of the Outlook Lodge.

The Outlook Lodge was built of chestnut logs in 1930.



Turner first purchased land in the Wantage foothills of Kittatinny Mountain in May 1914. His manor house and three-car garage were completed in 1916.

Wishing to promote dairy science, James Turner donated six model dairy farms, totaling 1,050 acres, to the State of New Jersey in 1931 for use as the North Dairy Branch of the State Agriculture Experiment Station. Lusscroft encompasses the adjacent Home, Meadow, Wyker and Valley Farms, which Turner purchased and improved. He inherited the Belle Ellen Stock Farm and Newbegin Farm from his uncle James Newbegin Jarvie of Upper Montclair in 1930. In 1971, shortly after Rutgers University closed its dairy research facilities, the Belle Ellen, Newbegin and Valley farms, were turned over to the DEP. Rutgers retained jurisdiction over the 578 acres at Lusscroft for use as a 4-H camp, which was turned over to the DEP in 2002.

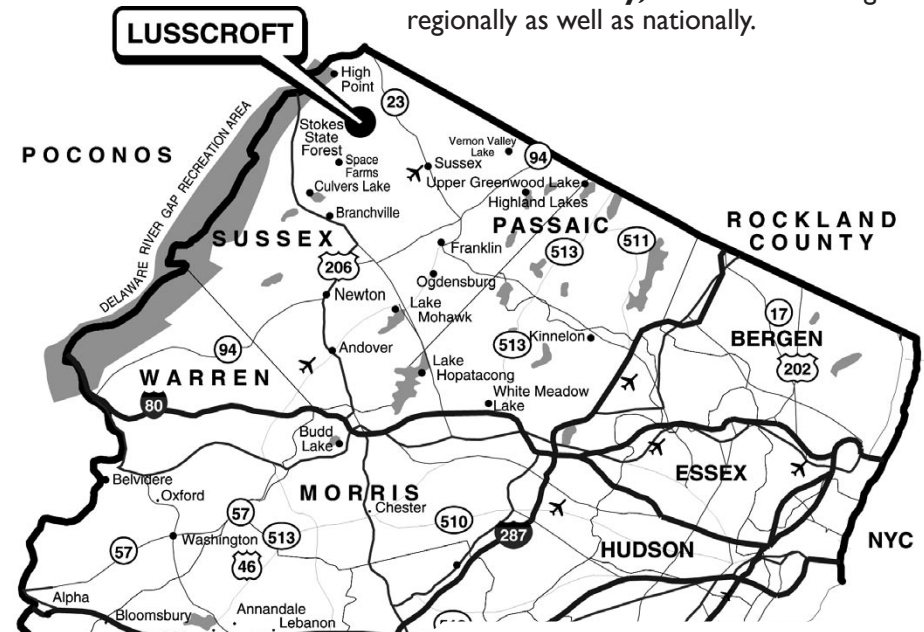
On May 16, 1936 Dr. Robert C. Clothier, president of Rutgers University, awarded Turner a medal in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of dairy science at the 5th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the James Turner Institute for Animal Research at Lusscroft, near Beemerville.

Turner died on May 6, 1939. He was survived by a sister, Miss Isabelle Jarvie Turner, of Montclair, and two brothers, Dr. William J. Turner, of Montclair, and Henry D. Turner, of La Jolla, California.



## Lusscroft Fast Facts

- **Lusscroft encompasses 577.86 acres** in Wantage and Montague Townships, Sussex County, New Jersey. It lies along County Route 519 and Neilson Road, adjacent to High Point State Park and Stokes State Forest.
- **Adjacent to Lusscroft, Rutan Hill is geologically significant** as one of only two sites in New Jersey with nepheline syenite, a very rare type of igneous rock. Lusscroft is the only place in New Jersey to see an extinct volcano (440 million years old).
- **Built as a model dairy farm between 1914 and 1930** and serving as the North Jersey Dairy Branch of the State Agricultural Experiment Station between 1931 and 1970, Lusscroft uniquely preserves two fundamental stages in the revolutionary advance of scientific agriculture.
- **Located at the headwaters of the West Branch of Papakating Creek, Lusscroft falls within two Natural Heritage Priority Sites:** the Wallkill River Macrosite (B4), which contains globally rare and endangered animal species; and the Papakating Creek Natural Heritage Site (B3), which contains globally rare and endangered turtles, threatened animals and endangered plant species.
- **Lusscroft presents a unique opportunity to protect and enhance the habitat for grassland-dependent bird species in the Great Limestone Valley,** which are declining regionally as well as nationally.



## Lusscroft's Original Donor and Benefactor: Who were James Jarvie & James Turner?

James Newbegin Jarvie (1853-1929) was the son of a Scottish textile designer who came to Brooklyn in 1855. He subsequently lived in Glen Ridge and Bloomfield, New Jersey, before moving to Upper Montclair in 1904. A world leader among sugar refiners and coffee importers, he was known as the "Coffee King." He was a partner in Arbuckle Brothers, a coffee and sugar business, which offered the first roasted coffee beans for sale. He retired in 1906 to look after his investments, but he continued serving as director on the boards of 26 corporations.



The Turner Mansion, built in 1916 and enlarged in 1928.

Among his many philanthropic works, Jarvie is best remembered for establishing the Jarvie Commonwealth Fund in 1925 to assist the aged poor. He served as president of the board of trustees of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Bloomfield, gave the church a building and later purchased an adjoining property for a manse, known as Helen's Manse, in memory of his wife. He married Helen Vanderveer Newton, of Bloomfield, in 1909, but she was killed in an accident in 1917.

Jarvie also purchased several farms, totaling 400 acres, in the heart of the village of Beemerville and operated them under the name of the Belle-Ellen Stock Farms. He built a country residence several miles distant on the Branchville Road, which he named Newbegin.

Jarvie died in 1929 at 75 years old. He left an estate valued at \$37.6 million. He endowed the Jarvie Commonwealth Fund with \$14 million dollars, naming his nephew, James Turner, as its president. Jarvie's bequest to the Presbyterian Church included \$3 million to the permanent fund for the Board of National Missions and \$250,000 to the Board of Foreign Missions. A trust fund amounting to \$5 million was set aside for the life use of ten relatives, to be distributed outright to their descendants. Jarvie's nephews, James Turner, of Montclair, and Henry Elwyn Worcester, of Worcester, Massachusetts, were appointed executors.

James Turner was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1859. He graduated from Amherst College in 1880. He was a generous benefactor to his alma mater, establishing the Class of 1880 House Library, funding a chair in the Classics, and contributing to the D. U. Fraternity House. In recognition of his patronage, he received an honorary M.A. and LL. D. from the college.

Turner moved to Prospect Avenue, Montclair, in 1900. He retired as chief executive officer of Arbuckle Brothers, New York coffee merchants, in 1906, the same year as his uncle and contemporary, James N. Jarvie. Turner and Jarvie were counted among the 150 charter members of the Montclair Riding, Driving and Automobile Club in March 1907. This novel club evolved as a means of allaying the antagonism between horsemen and automobilists. They purchased a plot of ground near the Montclair Golf Club for the construction of a suitable clubhouse.

